



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

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**Volume 17, No. 6 -- Report of the December 9-10, 2009, Regular Meeting**

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#### ***COMMENTS FROM JOE BROTHERS, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR***

The December Kentucky Board of Education meeting was fast moving and implemented a change in direction for our meetings. We are focusing on comprehensive strategies that will lead to either statutory, regulatory or policy changes to implement the requirements of Senate Bill 1 and result in improved student learning. The two major focus areas at this meeting were standards and assessment and high quality instruction and leadership. Specific topics that were considered within these areas included common course codes, definition of graduation rate, the new Common Core Standards, end-of-course assessments and developing a common evaluation system. Articles that follow in this newsletter provide more details on these topics.



Commissioner Terry Holliday is guiding the board to focus on the critical elements that we must implement to move Kentucky's education system to the next level of progress. We look forward to working with our partners to make these elements a reality for the students of our state.

## ***BOARD SETS DIRECTION ON COURSE CODES, END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND COHESIVE COMMON EVALUATION SYSTEM***

At the Kentucky Board of Education's December 9-10 meeting, Commissioner Terry Holliday proposed a number of policy decisions to the board that will set the direction for the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) work around Senate Bill 1. All of the proposals were unanimously approved and included:

- The KDE will work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop an administrative regulation requiring uniform academic course codes to assist school districts in complying with statutory and regulatory requirements, meeting students' needs and providing data and report information.
- The KDE will pursue use of end-of-course assessments for Kentucky's high school state assessment program to fulfill Senate Bill 1 requirements.
- The KDE will work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop a statewide common evaluation system for teachers and administrators that links teacher and administrator effectiveness to student achievement, working conditions and differentiated compensation. The system is necessary to improve teacher and administrator quality and significantly improve student learning.

For more information on uniform course codes, contact Associate Commissioner Felicia Smith at (502) 564-9850 or via e-mail at [Felicia.Smith@education.ky.gov](mailto:Felicia.Smith@education.ky.gov). Information on end-of-course assessments can be secured from Associate Commissioner Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via e-mail at [Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov](mailto:Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov). For the common evaluation system, contact Associate Commissioner Sally Sugg at (502) 564-2116 or via e-mail at [Sally.Sugg@education.ky.gov](mailto:Sally.Sugg@education.ky.gov).

## ***BOARD MOVES TOWARD APPROVAL OF NEW CORE ACADEMIC STANDARDS***

Proposals to revise two regulations were reviewed at the December meeting. 704 KAR 3:303, Required program of studies and 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation will both need revised language to change the name of Kentucky's Program of Studies for Grades Primary – 12 to Kentucky's Core Academic Standards. Additionally, since the Program of Studies is a document incorporated by reference within 704 KAR 3:303, the current math and language arts standards in the current Program of Studies will be replaced by the new Common Core Standards currently being developed in collaboration with other states in order to implement the requirements of Senate Bill 1.

Both regulations will come back to the board for final approval in February. Additionally, a joint meeting between the Kentucky Board of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education and Education Professional Standards Board will occur on February 10 to approve the new Common Core Standards. Opportunity for public review and input on the new standards will occur prior to the February meeting.

For more information on 704 KAR 3:303, 704 KAR 3:305, and the new Core Academic Standards, contact Felicia Smith at (502) 564-9850 or via e-mail at [Felicia.Smith@education.ky.gov](mailto:Felicia.Smith@education.ky.gov).

### ***703 KAR 5:060, INTERIM ASSESSMENT PROCESS GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL***

Final approval to 703 KAR 5:060, Interim assessment process was given by the board in December. This regulation provides for a three-year interim assessment process as required by Senate Bill 1. Proposed revisions to this regulation were outlined in the October “Board Notes”; however, some additional language changes were made in the final version after continued discussions with stakeholders as follows:

- Due to the urgent need to improve graduation rates, the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) will be used for federal accountability reporting purposes beginning the last year of the interim period (2010-2011). In order to set an annual graduation target for 2010-2011, Kentucky must use current graduation rates as a baseline. The 2010-2011 goal will be 82.32% with 84.88% by 2011-2012, 87.44% by 2012-2013 and 90% by 2013-2014.
- At the recommendation of the Local Superintendents Advisory Council, Section 6, subsections 4 and 5 were deleted relative to referencing intervention services to Title I and Non-Title I schools separately and language was added in Section 6, subsection 1 clarifying that the intervention matrix applies to all schools, both Title I and Non-Title I.

The public hearing on this regulation will occur on February 24, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. Contact Tina Drury at (502) 564-4474 for information on how to submit written comments or appear at the public hearing.

For more information on the content of 703 KAR 5:060, contact Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via e-mail at [Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov](mailto:Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov).

### ***LEGISLATIVE AGENDA APPROVED***

The 2010 Kentucky Board of Education Legislative Agenda was approved at the December meeting. The items in the agenda are as follows:

#### ***Pre-K Learning Opportunity Expansion***

- *Expand pre-K learning opportunities to 200% of poverty level for 4-year-olds.*

#### ***Taxing Authority***

- *Amend KRS 157.440 (Facilities Support Program of Kentucky) to increase the five-cent equivalent tax rate for facilities to ten cents. All districts should be required to levy ten cents. Those districts already levying ten cents or more are authorized to*

*levy an additional five cents, but are not required to do so. All facility funding (except the growth levy) should become part of the FSPK program.*

### **Dropout Prevention Grants**

- *Amend KRS 158.146(4) to remove priority in the awarding of dropout prevention grants to districts with chronically high dropout rates, remove the requirement to direct 75% of available funds to elementary and middle school students and 25% to high school students, and focus the grant program on supporting promising practices that are systemic, scalable, and replicable, and aligned with the principles of secondary reform.*

### **Compulsory School Attendance**

- *Raise the compulsory school age to 17 in 2010-2011 and 18 in 2011-2012.*

### **School governance changes**

- *The work being done in conjunction with the federal School Improvement Grants, the Race to the Top grants, and the temporary increases in Title I and IDEA funding have focused a lot of attention on the persistently lowest-achieving schools (defined as those schools whose student achievement is in the lowest 5% of all schools as evidenced by total percent of proficient/distinguished in reading and math combined for at least three consecutive years) and their issues and circumstances. The guiding considerations in working on these grants have been centered on the question: “With or without the grants, what would cause positive change in our lowest-achieving schools?”. To address these issues may require changes in how schools are governed. The four federal models for governance changes are:*

- *School closure*
- *Drastic school transformation by certain specific criteria*
- *Replacement of the principal and 50% of staff*
- *Using an external education management organization or entity*

*Statutory changes will be needed to effect the last three options because they each affect the mechanisms and even definitions of school leadership, principal hiring and assignment, and school governance in general.*

- *Add chronic, low student academic performance as a cause for removal of a superintendent or school board member (KRS 156.132).*

### **KEVIN NOLAND AND JOSEPH KELLY AWARDS PRESENTED**

Two prestigious awards were given by the Kentucky Board of Education at its December meeting. First, the Joseph W. Kelly Award was bestowed upon Bob Hudson, CEO of the Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center in Richmond. Hudson was nominated for the

award by Madison County Superintendent Tommy Floyd. In January of this year, Hudson formed a visionary partnership with the Madison County School District that has resulted in the implementation of the PE4Life curriculum in the district's schools and to the opening of LearnWell Clinics at both high schools. Students across the district can be referred by their school nurses and then transported to one of the clinic sites.

The LearnWell Clinics are staffed and funded entirely by the Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center. The district provides clinic space and transportation for elementary and middle school students to one of the clinic sites. This service potentially saves many hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency room visits. Hudson's leadership in establishing these clinics has helped remove health-related barriers for students, including a lack of health insurance or a lack of accessibility.

The Joseph W. Kelly Award was created in honor of Joseph W. Kelly, a respected businessman and chair of the Kentucky Board of Education from 1991 to 1998. Kelly's efforts and expertise were crucial to the implementation and nurturing of Kentucky's school improvement efforts. The annual award is given by the Kentucky Board of Education to businesspeople who have offered outstanding leadership and service toward promoting school improvement and equitable educational opportunities for all Kentucky children.

Additionally, the first annual Kevin M. Noland Award was presented to Linda Holbrook, state Reading First Coordinator at the Kentucky Department of Education. She was nominated by her peers at the Kentucky Department of Education and recommended by an interdepartmental selection committee to Commissioner Terry Holliday for submission to the board as the winner.

Holbrook provides support and assistance related to the federal Reading First program, which allocates \$13.7 million annually to Kentucky for early reading instruction and professional development for teachers to ensure that children learn to read well by the end of 3rd grade. Holbrook's leadership has been crucial in framing the Kentucky Reading First experience. During her time as the Reading First Coordinator, schools that were identified among the lowest performing in the state have made great strides in increasing the number of students reading at the proficient level and reducing the number of at-risk students in reading.

The Kentucky Board of Education established the Kevin M. Noland Award to honor former Interim Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner and General Counsel Kevin M. Noland, who served the Department of Education for approximately 18 years. The award recognizes a KDE employee for significant service to Kentucky's public schools and for providing inspiration for education.

For more information about the Joseph W. Kelly Award winner or the Kevin M. Noland Award winner, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via e-mail at [MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov).

***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT THE DECEMBER 9-10 MEETING WERE:***

- Minutes from the October 7-8, 2009, meeting
- District facility plan: Jenkins Independent
- District facility plan amendments: Graves and Mercer Counties and Newport Independent
- 2009-10 Local district tax rates levied
- 702 KAR 6:100, Appeal procedures for nutrition and health services programs (Final)
- School Facilities Construction – Facility Unmet Needs Report
- Cancellation of the March 3, 2010 and September 15, 2010 KBE meetings
- Attendance of NASBE study group meetings by Dorie Combs, Joe Brothers and C.B. Akins
- Attendance of NASBE Board of Directors meeting by Austin Moss
- Attendance of Joe Brothers and C.B. Akins at NASBE Southern Regional Meeting in January 2010
- Addition of budget to be within the purview of the KBE Audit Committee

***OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD AT THE DECEMBER 9-10 MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:***

- Teacher and principal working conditions survey presentation
- Annual Report of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children
- 702 KAR 3:030, Insurance requirements
- KHSAA Annual Reporting Requirements
- KHSAA Title IX Update of Phase 2 of the 2009-10 KHSAA Audit Visit Schedule
- Shifting priorities in state spending presentation by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Hearing Officer's Report
- KDE Employment Report
- Discussion on cost saving strategies for Kentucky Board of Education meetings

***BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2010 AND 2011***

**KBE MEETING DATES 2010**

<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
February 10-11, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 13-14, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 18-19, 2010	KBE retreat/strategic plan discussion	Frankfort
June 9-10, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 4-5, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort

October 6-7, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 8-9, 2010	Regular meeting	Frankfort

#### **KBE MEETING DATES 2011**

<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
February 2-3, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 2, 2011	Regular meeting	Available hotel, Owensboro
April 13-14, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 11-12, 2011	KBE retreat/strategic plan discussion	Frankfort
June 8-9, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort
September 14, 2011	Regular meeting	Cumberland Falls State Park, Corbin, KY
October 5-6, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2011	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the December 9-10, 2009, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor, at (502) 564-3141.*

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